THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The estimated volume of iron-ore exports from India, category-wise and year-wise is as follows:—

(Quantity in Million tonnes)

	+62% Fe			-62% Fe			Total	Total	Total
	Lumps	Fines	Total	Lumps	Fines	Total	Lumps	Fines	
2004-05	8.43	45.94	54.37	5.11	18.66	23.77	13.54	64.60	78.14
2005-06 (Prov.)	9.49	33.59	43.08	4.79	41.40	46.19	14.28	74.99	89.27
2006-07 (Apr-Dec 06) (Prov.)	4.76	26.19	30.95	4.15	23.46	27.61	8.91	49.65	58.56

Source: MMTC, KIOCL, GMOEA.

Note: Concentrates & Pellets are included in Fines and Lumps respectively.

(b) The existing iron-ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron-ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Production of iron-ore is in excess of current domestic demand. Besides, the surplus iron-ore fines produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating lumpy-ore has to be evacuated, failing which it would lead to curtailment of production resulting in unemployment predominantly in tribal areas, increased cost of production, reduction in economic activities and export earnings in addition to causing environmental hazards.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration, at present.

Industrially backward states

873. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrially backward States in the country;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme for development of industrially backward States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (f) The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has requested the Planning Commission to identify clear cut empirical criteria to define industrial backwardness and undertake a comprehensive survey to rank all the districts on the parameters of industrial backwardness. Concerted efforts are being made by State and Central Governments for industrial development of backward areas under various schemes *inter-alia* providing for fiscal concessions, improved industrial infrastructure and a conducive investment climate for setting up of industries. Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion is implementing the Growth Centre Scheme, Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, North-East Industrial Policy Package, Special Category States Package and Industrial Park Scheme to promote industrial development.

Review of FDI in retail trade

874. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy on Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade is under review; and

(b) what are the merits and demerits of FDI in retail trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is reviewed on a continuing basis. Inter-Ministerial consultations on policy issues is an on-going process. The policy was comprehensively reviewed in 2006 and the revised policy for FDI was notified. In the retail trading sector, FDI was permitted in Single Brand Product Retailing. Besides, change of route for FDI in wholesale/cash & carry and export trading was also notified.